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ELECT ALL OFFICERS.

The demand for the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people has long occupied the attention of the public, and it is evident that the result sought to be accomplished by those who favor this method of choosing senators is quite as far off as ever. Many of the reformers go even farther, however, and demand the election of all officers, except members of the cabinet. The idea is suggested by The Dalles Times-Mountaineer, which says:

There may be some good reasons why federal officers should be appointed by the president or by heads of departments, but there are many more good reasons why they should be elected directly by the people whom they are to serve. Especially is this true with reference to postmasters who deal more intimately with the people than any other official in the public service. All postmasters are appointed either by the president or by the assistant postmaster general, but there is no good and sufficient reason for this. They should be elected directly by the people whom they are to serve. Why should the president or his appointees be permitted to turn the postal department into a political machine and use thousands of postmasters as agents to advance the interests of the party in power? Or why should a single congressman be permitted to select the servants of the people who are to serve them in the offices of postmaster throughout his district? Is the president or a congressman better fitted to select acceptable postmasters than those to be served? Certainly not.

But the appointive power exercised by the president and the rights of congressmen to recommend is one of the perquisites of officialdom, still it is undemocratic; and too often the privilege is abused. Crafty politicians more often get appointments to federal positions as rewards for services than because of any particular qualifications they may possess.

Outside, perhaps, of the president's cabinet and the consular service, every federal officer should be elected by the people, and this will be the rule whenever a majority come to fully realize the injustice of filling offices by appointment. When they come to a full realization of this fault in our present system they will demand an amendment to the constitution providing for the election of all officers.

OUR ISSUE WITH TURKEY.

The sultan has persisted for years in putting Americans under the ban in his empire. The position and privileges accorded to Europeans, in respect of residence and freedom in business and professional practice, have been persistently refused to Americans. This has resulted in the outlawry of our countrymen in Turkey. If they were located there they were subject to intolerable exactions and restrictions, enforced not by the mob but by the government. Our minister, after suing for an audience with the sultan for two years, was finally given a hearing in which he was treated with conspicuous contempt and discourtesy, and though a time was fixed for an answer to his requests it has been permitted to expire and the sultan remains silent.

No government, and especially not ours, can submit to such treatment, says the Call. No matter how small American interests may be in Turkey we have the undoubted right to demand and enforce equality with other nations. To submit to humiliation, oppression and inequality at the hands of the most rotten and corrupt of governments is intolerable. There is but one course to pursue and that has been taken by Secretary Hay, in ordering warships to a Turkish port, and if necessary to menace Constantinople itself.

We have abundant precedents, created under all administrations. When Austria refused to deliver Martin Kozsta, who had only declared his intention to become an American and had taken the preliminary steps toward American citizenship, an American man-of-war menaced the Austrian consulate and shipping and compelled the delivery of Kozsta. This was before the days of cable communication, and the action was taken upon the order of Mr. Jackson, the American diplomatic representative, and was subsequently indorsed by the secretary of state, and is an incident in our history that is the pride of our

people. Their pride is no less invested in the demand that Americans shall be legally the equal of men of other nations in the empire of the sultan.

It is surely a strange thing that Abdul Hamid, who holds his position as a European ruler by virtue of the rival ambitions of other continental nations which he treats with craft and indifference, should yet grant to their nationals equality which he denies to Americans, whose country has no desire to interfere with his position or the integrity of his empire in Europe, Asia Minor or Africa.

While it is true that only the congress of the United States can declare war, it is also true that the president can use the force of the nation to protect such American rights as are denied by the sultan, by making a naval demonstration and even by proceeding to the extreme of throwing shot through the palace and seraglio of the sultan. If Turkey remain obdurate and continue an insulting and defiant attitude, the same American pride and sentiment that would have demanded war against Austria to enforce the rights of Martin Kozsta will demand that congress take the most extreme measures against Turkey in the present controversy. It would be a conflict which Europe would regard with complacency, for it might well end with the destruction of European Turkey, and the solving of the problem of the "Sick Man," which has been the despair of the continental powers and Great Britain.

No American is so insensible to the dignity of his country as to refuse approval of vigorous action in such a situation. When Secretary Hay sent his ultimatum to the sultan of Morocco in the case of Perdicaris, demanding "Perdicaris alive, or Raisanli dead," he struck the universal chord of American feeling. We will not be treated with contempt or put under the ban of inequality by any nation, and least of all by such organized iniquity as Turkey.

The sultan has so long enjoyed immunity from the continental powers and has reduced lying to so fine an art that he has become proud and puffed up with the idea that he can do as he pleases with a nation so distant as the United States. The sentiment of modern governments and of civilization demands that the nationals of one country shall be safe and equal in all other countries. The subjects of the sultan come here and find absolute equality of right. They have mobility throughout our borders, can engage in business or the practice of a profession, and are amply protected by our laws, being under no ban on account of race or religion.

By the treaty of Smyrna, negotiated for the United States by Commissioners Rhind and Olley and Commodore Biddle, and by Mohammed Hamid for Turkey, it was agreed that "Merchants of the sublime porte, whether Mussulmans or Rayahs, going and coming, in the countries, ports and provinces of the United States, or proceeding from one port to another, or from the ports of the United States to those of other countries, shall pay the same duties and imposts that are paid by the most favored nations, and they shall not be vexed by the exaction of higher duties; and in traveling by sea and land, all the privileges and distinctions observed toward the subjects of other powers shall serve as a rule and shall be observed toward the merchants and subjects of the sublime porte. In like manner American merchants, who shall come to the well defended countries of the sublime porte, shall pay the same duties and imposts that are paid by merchants of the most favored friendly powers, and they shall not in any way be vexed or molested. American merchants established in the well defended states of the sublime porte, for purposes of commerce, shall have liberty to employ sensars (brokers) of any nation or religion in like manner as merchants of other friendly powers, and they shall not be disturbed in their affairs, nor shall they be treated in any way contrary to established usage."

That treaty has been systematically violated by Turkey and observed by us. Turkey must now keep faith or take the consequences.

South Carolina presents an appalling array of homicides during the year 1903. Once the Palmetto state was famous for its statesmen, now it appears to be notorious for crime. The attorney general of South Carolina reports that there were 222 homicides in that state in 1903. The population of South Carolina in 1900 was 1,381,625. The attorney general of South Carolina does not give the wounded, but it is a fair presumption that the casualties in a time of profound peace in the Palmetto state were as considerable as those that occurred on the American side of the battle of Santiago during the Spanish war. The banner year for manslaughter in South Carolina was 1897, when a total of 225 was reached. It is interesting, though ghastly, to follow the murder wave since 1888. In 1888 there were 107 killings; 1889, 111; 1890, 120; 1891, 143; 1892, 105; 1893, 131; 1894, 141; 1895, 210; 1896, 202; 1897, 225; 1898, 217; 1899, 213; 1900, 222; 1901, 192; 1902, 190; 1903, 222. Of course, there can be no record of murdered men made away with and lost to human ken; but somewhere in the wilds their bones are mouldering. The totals are not the true ones, moreover, it is doubtful if the records have been scrupulously kept. But they are bad enough as they stand.

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TIDE LANDS DEMANDED.

Great Northern Railway Institutes Condemnation Proceedings.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer: In order to increase its trackage facilities, the Seattle & Montana branch of the Great Northern railway began condemnation proceedings in the superior court Saturday to acquire title to certain tide lands at Smiths cove.

The railroad's petition announces that the land they are seeking to condemn is essential for terminal facilities in this city. The right-of-way asked lies across a wide strip of tide flats owned by the Smiths Cove Land Company. As this property is adjacent to the docks from which the Great Northern steamers will soon be plowing their way to the orient, it will be almost indispensable for use in affording room for side tracks where transcontinental freights can be sidled. In addition to using it for the purpose of side tracking, the petition alleges that the railway company desires to erect depots and water tanks on the property. The petitioners ask that a jury be summoned as soon as possible to assess the damages.

"Independent" Dailies.

Boston Transcript: Speaking of the "Independent" dailies of New York city being all out now against Roosevelt, the Wall Street Journal, also "Independent," notes that in 1900 Bryan polled a plurality of 28,000 votes in Manhattan island, although every leading newspaper of the city opposed him. Van Wyck was elected mayor against nearly every paper in the city, and the same is true of McClellan.

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